## Amnsements.

BROADWAY THEATRE—8:15—Erian Boru.
CASINO—8:15—An American Beauty.
CARNEGIE HALL—2 The Messlah.
COLUMBUS THEATRE—8:15—A Parlor Match.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—The Geisha.
EDEN MUSEE—8—Waxworks and Concert.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:20—Under the Red Robe.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8:15—A Fool of Fortune.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:30—Merchant of Venice.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:15—Secret Service.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—Superba.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—The Sporting Duchess.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:15—The Girl from
Faria.

Paris
HOYTS THEATRE—8:30—My Friend from India.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8—The Spendthrift.
KNICKERBOCKER—8—A Bunch of Violets.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—8-Vaudewille.
LYCEL M THEATRE—8:20—The Late Mr. Castello.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—8—A TEXAS STEEP.
NEW METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8:15—Mefis OLYMPIA MUSIC HALL, \$:15 Vaudeville; Winter Gar.

den, Bal Champette, 11.
PASTOR'S - 12:30 to 11 - Vaudevhle.
STAR THEATRE - 2 - 8 - Merry Tramps.
WALLACK'S - 8:15 - 10 Gay New York.
HTH STREET THEATRE - 8:15 - The Cherry Pickers.

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# New-Work Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1896.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.-Progressist papers in Germany by members of the noblesse. Sir John Brown, one of the first in Great Britain to advo-cate the plating of warships with armor, died in Brighton, England. General John Meredith Read, the well-known American diploma-

tist, died in Paris.

DOMESTIC.—A train went off a bridge on the Birmingham Mineral Road in Alabama, causing the death of twenty-seven or more persons.

It is said that drawing-room intrigues in Washington have led to a waning of the Cuban sentiment; Senator Chandler in an interview takes issue with Secretary Olney's position on the Cameron resolution.

The annual report of the State Superintendent of Banking is made public.

Outo Wasmansdorff, a Chicago public. — Otto Wasmansdorff, a Chicago banker, who failed last Monday, committed sui-

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-The home of Dun-CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The home of Dun-can Elliott, on the grounds of the Westchester Country Club, near Westchester Village, was destroyed by fire. — The fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of the priesthood of the Rev. Dr. James Mulchahey was observed at St. Pau's Chapel. — Hospital Sunday was observed in the Protestant churches of the city.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Fair, temperature about zero in the morning, but much higher at night. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 32 degrees; lowest, 15; average, 100.

#### THE OUTLOOK CLEARING.

Political events within the last month have materially cleared the air. There is first the important fact that the utterances of the present Administration do not in the least change the prospect which the majority of the people had before their minds when they voted in November. The President's foreign policy does not threaten, as some imagined, to substitute grave foreign difficulties for consideration of domestic welfare. The conservative message in that respect, and the position taken by Secretary Olney, make it improbable that foreign issues will engross public attention to the delay of those great reforms upon which prosperity depends. Nor have the arguments and efforts of the President, Secretary Carlisle and Controller Eckels been at all effective to divert public at tention to a radical reconstruction of the monetary system. On the contrary, the receipt of these endeavors by the people makes it clear that the coming Administration will be heartily sustained in its determination to stop the deficit, give Government needed revenue, and start crease uncertainty and incur additional risks.

unquestioned authority, that the President-elect believes it not possible to restore public prosperity without a general change of the tariff. and to this end will ask the support of all who wish prosperity revived. It is the one purpose above all others which clearly determined the votes of a great majority of the people. It was mainly because of McKinley's eminent qualifications and his known and positive opinions on that subject that he was nominated and elected. The first step to carry out the will of the people must therefore be to unite in support of the Administration on this question those who are no. disposed to make factious opposition to the declared decision of the people. It is indicated that the silver Senators will be divided. Some of them refuse to block measures for the relief of the Treasury and the revival of industry, in the hope that they may serve the interests of silver by increasing the troubles of the country. Others may be expected to continue such efforts, and therein will have the aid of most Democrats

It has been stated most emphatically, and upon

The influence of a President is naturally greatest when he has just been inaugurated, and has not yet been compelled to disappoint the hopes of multitudes by deciding between rival applicants for position. At such a time, without the slightest improper use of his rightful influence as chosen leader of a successful party, the President exerts a large power with his political associates, and with all others whose desire is to uphold his efforts for the good of the country so far as they conscientiously can. Major Me-Kinley is known as a man who patiently, courteously and kindly strives to avoid needless antagonism in his efforts to promote the public welfare. It would be most natural for such a man to shape his own policy and that of his party, as far as he may in harmony with his convictions of duty, with intent to invite and welcome the support of those who sincerely meet him in such efforts. There are already prominent and influential Democrats who have expressed a readiness to take the course marked out so distinctly by Mr. Bourke cockran, and personal intercourse with the President-

elect is not likely to lessen the number. It must be assumed that the Republicans who supported McKinley in the recent contest will be heartly and unhesitatingly united in upholding the National policy which he consistently urged during the campaign. On other questions and about appointments to office individuals may come to differ from him. But on the main policy of the party they cannot take a position of antagonism which threatens to defeat the will of those who gave the party success. Without doubt the President-elect will judge of the fidelitt and usefulness of men to the Republican cause in large degree by the character and zeal of their efforts to carry out its principles and to restore public prosperity.

LEARNING AND POLITICS IN RUSSIA. The way in which the Russian system of arbitrary political censorship sometimes militates realist the best interests of Russia itself-that is against the practical welfare of the people of the Empire-is strikingly shown in the case of Professor Erismann, who recently "resigned" the chair of hygiene in the University of Moscow. Some time ago a respectful petition was Anarchist and Socialist headquarters in every

than forty-two of the professors of the university. It related to what has long been notorious, that every year many of the best students at that and other universities are arrested and sent into "administrative exile." That is to say, they are sent to Siberia "by order of the Czar," without trial, without even being informed of the cause of their condemnation, and without right of appeal. The supposition is, of course, that they are suspected of revolutionary tendencies, but it is by no means satisfactorily evident that all such suspicions are well founded. This petition begged the Government to take under consideration the abolishment or at least modification of this system, which was probably inflicting great grievances upon some individuals, and was a serious detriment to the cause of higher education throughout the Em-

The Government answered this address first by formally censuring all the forty-two professors who had signed it. Then it administered a special and severe reprimand to the four who were supposed to have been foremost in getting up the offensive document, one of these being Professor Erismann, Finally, it informed Professor Erismann that his services were no longer required by the university, and that his resignation of the chair of hygiene would be accepted if presented by him within three days; the alternative intlmated being, of course, that he would be summarily dismissed. No reason was expressed for this action, and no opportunity for a hearing or appeal was afforded. There was nothing for the Professor to do, therefore, but to send in his resignation at once, which he accordingly did

Now Russia is, of all civilized countries, most scantily supplied with physicians, and most in need of them, and of the best medical and hygienic instruction. Professor Erismann is one of the foremost hygienists not only of Russia. but of the world. He is, then, one of the very men whom Russia most needs, and whose services would be of the greatest practical benefit to the Russian people. Yet Russia is deprived of his services, and he is practically driven into exile, not for any crime of his, so far as is known, nor because he is even suspected of revolutionary tendencies, or of sympathizing with such tendencies in others, but simply because he ventured to ask the Government to exercise its unquestioned authority with intelligence, discrimination and justice. It is a deplorable incident, and most deplorable of all from the point of view of Russia's own truest welfare.

#### THE MUNICIPAL PROBLEM.

The announcement that after next Friday, January 1, the city of Glasgow, Scotland, will evy no taxes on its citizens because it will have a sufficient revenue from its public works, furnishes a striking object lesson to American cities. Our readers will recall Mr. Ford's interesting letters some time ago on the municipal ownership of public works in English and Scottish cities. It is, in fact, along the lines of municipal ownership that Great Britain is solving the municipal problem, and apparently solving it with entire success. The cry of State socialism has been raised against the plan by a few unthinking people; but there is no point in the objection. Municipalities now furnish their citizens with water, and all civilized governments operate the postal service. Why should it be more socialistic for a municipality to manage its transportation or furnish its citizens with gas?

When Glasgow became the owner of its tram way lines, about two years ago, fares were fixed at one, two, three, or four cents, according to distance. During the first eleven months duly 1, 1894, to June 1, 1895), 57,046,640 passengers were carried at an average fare of less than two cents. Thirty-nine per cent of the fares were only one cent, and yet the roads made a handsome profit. For the second year they show a net profit of more than \$200,000 after allowing for interest, taxes and depreciation. If this is the result of municipal owner ship in a city with a population of not more the wheels of industry again, before undertaking | than 700,000, it is entirely safe to say that a any monetary revolution which would only in- like result would follow from municipal ownership of streetear lines in American cities. It certainly would follow if our municipal government was as good as that of the average British city. What we need to do is to purify our municipal government first, and then we shall be in a position to follow the good example of Glasgow and other cities of Great Britain. Had New-York been in a position to adopt that policy years ago, instead of fooling away its valuable franchises, the city could be carried on to-day without a cent of taxes from its citizens.

> instructive examples of wise municipal administration. Paris, which has the reputation of being one of the wickedest cities in the world, is, in some respects, one of the best-governed cities in the world. In 1854 the omnibus lines of the city were consolidated as the Compagnie Générale des Omnibus, to which an exclusive franchise was granted for thirty years. This franchise has been modified as the city grew. By the arrangement of 1860 the company agreed to pay 1,000,000 francs a year, or 2,000 francs apiece for 500 vehicles. It now pays that sum, and, in addition, 2,000 francs apiece for every vehicle operated beyond the number of 500. A similar arrangement is made with the tramway companies. This system has worked well and has proved most lucrative to the city. The municipality is now receiving more than 2,000,000 francs a year for its street-passenger franchises, and in 1910, when the franchises will have to be renewed, it will be able to make an even more advantageous contract with the companies. This matter is especially interesting to New-Yorkers just now, because the same principle of renewing public franchises at the end of a stated period is embodied in the proposed Greater New-York charter. No problem now before the American public is more important than that of municipal reform and economy, and the experience of such cities as Glasgow and Paris will throw much light on the proper way in

# "THEIR" ROGUES GALLERY.

Much of the phenomenal success of the Socialist and Anarchist party in Europe is due to the elaborate system of its organization, and to the arrangements that have been devised. not only for the maintenance of discipline in its ranks, but also for the co-operation and union of its branches in the various countries of the Old World. Acquainted in a measure with these methods through which Socialism and Anarchy have developed during the last quarter of a century into one of the great political forces of Europe—there are some who regard it | In 1894, and takings of Northern spinners about as the most important and powerful factor of all-neither the authorities nor the public were altogether prepared for the discovery which has just been made in the course of the raid of the house of a prominent German Anarchist at Copenhagen. Among his effects was found a complete collection of photographs of the principal detectives and secret police agents not alone of Denmark, but also of every other country in Europe. Each portrait was provided with remarks on the character, the capacities and the antecedents of the detective, as well as with data concerning his favorite methods of disguise and his modes of operation. The collection, which is of the most extensive and complete character, constitutes, it has since been ascertained, merely one of a huge series,

presented to the Government, signed by no less | big city and town being provided with a set of pictures of this kind, so that no "brother" may be taken unawares or deceived by those who at present are their arch-enemies, namely, the

Until now it has been imagined that collections of portraits of this kind were confined to what are known as the "Rogues' Galleries" of the various police departments, specially devised for the tracking of those who, either on account of their moral shortcomings or political opinions, are regarded as the foes of society. The Socialists and Anarchists, however, seem to have ideas of their own with regard to what constitutes a rogue and an enemy of society. and what these views are is demonstrated in an altogether novel and unexpected manner by this discovery at Copenhagen of what they are pleased to term as their own "Rogues' Gallery." Nor is it possible or politic to treat their opinions on the subject with ridicule or contempt. For their political movement shows signs of remarkable growth, development and vitality in these modern times. In Germany, for, instance, it is admitted that not merely one-third, but nearly the half of the entire electorate of the Empire is imbued with Socialist ideas and obedient to the words of command of its leaders. The same condition of affairs prevails in Italy, Spain, France, Portugal, Belgium and Austria, and so serious is the situation, particularly from a monarchical point of view, that it is impossible to condema Emperor William altogether for availing himself of every opportunity to remind his troops that they must be ready at any moment to draw their swords and to use their rifles without mercy in defence of the existing order of society against the Socialists and the Aparchists.

### MONEY AND BUSINESS.

The failures of important banks in Chicago and St. Paul have for the time affected business, though less than most men may have realized. There was growing rapidly a feeling of safety and confidence in the future, which, with the abundant supply of money, in oured by the enor mous excess of exports over imports gave promof speedy improvement in business. there has suddenly returned something of the exaggerated conservatism which prevailed after the utterances of the Chicago Convention. It is in the last degree absurd to assert, as some cranks on the currency do, that the recent failures denote returning distrust of the greenbacks The question now is whether the banking system is as safe as had been supposed, or whether it has been so far abused, in ald of stock, real estate and produce speculations during the prolonged strain of the last four years, that other weak spots are liable to appear. Happily, the disturbance comes just at the time of year when there is the least new demand for commercial or industrial loans, and when a sounder confidence may be expected with the new year.

The difficulties which have so much embar rassed important industries do not yet disappear. The most important of these, inadequacy of purchases for consumption, still tends in large measure to the same distrust of the industrial future which began to prostrate business as soon as Democrats in power began to threaten the tariff, and, while a great many additional hands have found employment within the last few months, many others have not, nor have wages been restored to the level of 1892. But there are other causes of hesitation in buying which, if less general in their influence are much more conspicuous in some quarters When speculation in cotton pushed up the price to SS7 cents early in September, until certain New-Orleans banks broke down, there followed the slow, dragging decline in cotton and in goods which has continued during the months in which about two-thirds of the crop is usually marketed. Through all that time purchases of goods by raders have been hindered by expectation that the price would go lower. The boot and shoe and leather manufacturers were placed in a similarly false position by the extravagant rise ween the last week of August and the middle of November, and in some kinds of leather prices ose about 40 per cent in substantially the same time. The buying of boots and shoes was almanufacturers thought it necessary to make, gan his investigation. The rapid rise in the price of wool has also made trouble for the manufacturers in much the same

the holsting of materials, without regard to the demand for finished products, proved more disastrong than in the iron and steel manufacture The fixed price of coke, the combinations in Lake iron ore, the formation of the great billet year, with the formation of other pools and associations to force prices up without waiting for a larger consuming demand, have made the year Through the year purchasing has been much retarded by the impression that the failure of one or another combination to maintain prices would result in a smash. It is now stated that heavy contracts have been made in billets at the decline of \$3 in rails has not yet brought out much business. In this way a multitude of circumstances have worked against the recovery of the most important industries all through the year, but especially during the latter part

The year ends on the other hand with exports of domestic products stimulated in a high degree, while imports are exceptionally small, having been exceptionally large during most of the last two years. The December exports from New-York alone have been about 16 per cent larger than last year, when the aggregate for the whole country was \$92,539,000. Similar increase elsewhere may not be expected, although on the Pacific Coast the gain has been large. But with only moderate increase in exports at other points, the aggregate for the month would rise to about \$100,000,000, the third month in succession with such a record, making the total for four months \$404,000,000. The total imports in three of these months have been only \$151,361,351, and the imports in four weeks at New-York have been 12 per cent less than last year, when the total amount was \$62,000,000. These data would indicate not far from \$206. 000,000 for imports, against \$407,000,000 for merchandise exports in four months, and, as net imports of specie have been only about \$57,000,000, there must evidently remain heavy credits abroad, notwithstanding all possible al lowance for interest and dividends due, and for undervaluations of goods.

Cotton is a sixteenth lower for the week, and the quantity which has come into sight is about 272,000 bales less than in the same days of December, 1894, from the largest crop ever grown, apparently raising the aggregate for four months to about 6,300,000 bales. Exports for the month have been about 175,000 less than 134,000 less. Stocks in this country are practically as large as in 1894, but stocks of American abroad are about 625,000 bales smaller. It may be observed that British exports of cotton goods have for four months been slightly smaller than last year, and considerably smaller than in 1894. The other chief exportable product has been going out very freely from the Pacific Coast, and Atlantic exports, flour included, are but slightly smaller than last year in December. The remarkable fall in Western receipts in December has helped to strengthen the price, which is, nevertheless, not quite as high as a month ago.

To most observers shrinkage of railway earnngs seems sufficient reason for a fall in stocks. But after the fall of about \$2 per share, fol-

December have been 4.5 per cent smaller than last year, and 11.4 smaller than in 1892, Chicago eastbound tonnage also decreasing ma terially. Payments through clearing-houses fall 9.8 per cent below last year for the month, and 20.8 below those of 1892. In neither case is the decline surprisingly large when the heavy decline in prices is noticed. Banking failures for the month will be heavy, but all commercial and manufacturing failures will apparently make but little larger liabilities than last year, in manufactures a nttle less, and in trading about \$1,000,000 more. The survey of events near the close of the year is apt to miss those larger changes in public temper and in other conditions which have most to do with shaping the course of business for the coming year But while full recovery of business is not to be expected immediately, no clear reason is visible for believing that substantial gain may not soon follow the opening of the new year. Certain it is that recent events have cleared away some most important obstacles to such an im-

The appointment of a Republican District-Attorney inflicts a grievous wound upon Hill's political sensibilities, but with careful nursing he ought to get over it. He is going back into private life presently, and should clear his mind of all political anxieties, as the public has cleared him of all political obligations. The administration of Wolfert's Roost will afford him light and healthy occupation during the rest of his career, and is entitled to his exclusive attention.

If, haply, Spain should not whip us in the conflict possibly but not probably impending. it will not be for lack of information concerning our vulnerable points, coastwise and inland. Pamphlets and topographical maps showing them up are to be copiously distributed among army and navy officers there, the War Office having the matter in charge. We are in parlous case if war really does break out. Can't the thing be compromised? We must preserve our autonomy in some way, and where would it be if Spain once got a whack at us?

Congressman Loud made the remarkable statement, in his recent report on rates of postage to the House of Representatives, that a long-suffering people are taxed from \$30,000,-600 to \$40,000,000 a year, more than it costs to transmit by mail their letters, newspapers and packages, solely that a few thousand persons may be indulged in the luxury of printing newspapers. Mr. Loud wenders why 60,000,000 people have remained silent so long about a matter, the mere contemplation of which makes him hot. As an ascertained fact, the actual deficit in the postal revenues averages about \$7,000,000 a year (not thirty or forty millions). If 60,000,000 people pay that much more than they ought to for the carriage of their letters, newspapers and packages, and have remained oppressively silent about it all these years, it is because, in the first place, there is, under present rates, an immense say ing to them in the cost f postage on their letters; and, secondly, because reduced rates of newspaper postage are one of the important factors in saving to the people, in reduced subscription price of their newspapers, more than the \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 a year which Mr. Loud talks about. Mr. Loud declaims against special privileges for a few and against the annual postal deficit. Yet he proposes to let the entire local issues of 15,000 country weekly newspapers continue to be circulated at Government expense, absolutely free of charge for postage an arrangement which taxes the people about \$2,000,000 a year, or about a third of the annual deficit. How large a part of the annual deficit is due to the franking privilege Mr. Loud probably knows. If there is to be equity, if there are to be no special privileges, why not cut off the dead-head postage list? The any measure against country weeklies; but in view of Mr. Loud's excited declamations against special privileges, it seems proper to ask him why he ignores the franking privilege and the

Mr. Raines has reached the conclusion that it will be necessary to amend his Excise law in most wholly arrested by the advance which some respects. We all knew that before he be-

> that a primrose path spreads before hkn. H: will find it rugged enough, though, like another well-known causeway, it has been paved with His chance to make a record upon it, however, is better than if it were smoother. He is expected to bind on his sandals, over the splendor and speed of his feet, and be off with a rush like knows the difficulties before him, and if he does even moderately well he will do better than many who have preceded him, and will not lack

> The State Railroad Commissioners have decided that a tunnel between New-York and Brooklyn is necessary. Now let the company which has been talking about building the tunnel give evidence that it means business.

> This is the season in which the gas monopolist becomes explanatory and proclamatory, and testifies aloud to the philanthropy underlying his efforts and intentions. But he addresses a stiff-necked and perverse generation familia with gas bills, and therefore of little faith in the benevolent pretensions of his kind

## PERSONAL.

J. H. Myers, the inventor of the ballot machine has written an open letter, complaining that he is having the usual hard luck of invertors. pany which manufactured the machine has recently sold out to a new concern. Mr. Myers is no longer president, and his name has been dropped from the company, which is now known as the American Ballot Machine Company.

According to a Madrid paper, Major Cirujeda, before whose column Macro is said to have fallen, has been made a colonel. No less than four towns in Spain lawe opened subscriptions in order to raise funds to purchase swords of honor to be presented to him.

Helen Keller, who is obliged to do her writing

laborlously with a pencil on a board specially prepared for her use, received a most welcome Christ-mas gift in the shape of a typewriter. It will be of great service to the remarkable blind girl. One of the most famous of the Sicllian banditti has lately met his death at the hands of the gendarmes, and his band has been annihilated almost within sight of Palermo. He was the brigand Colletti. His brother and Cicero, his Heutenant, upon whose heads the price of 25,000 lire had been set, were captured in the same conflict.

Lebanon, Ind. He is in his eightieth year. Judg Neal wrote the amendment in his office in Lebanon. It was submitted by Congressman Godlove S. Grth to the Congressional Committee which was discussing measures of reconstruction, and was afterward adopted. Louis Béroud, the French artist, who is naine

ng a picture entitled "The Visit of the Czar and Czarlna to the Tomb of Napoleon i." had President Faure pose for him the other day. M. Béroud will shortly leave Paris for St. Petersburg, where Their Imperial Majestles will grant him a similar favor. The picture will probably be completed in time for exhibition at the Champs Elysées Salon next May. Senator-elect Money, of Mississippi, whose term

is Congressman does not end until March 4, and who is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, is going to visit Cuba this week to on the island. Colonel Money intends to make a trip into the interior, and he is determined to com-municate with the insurgents, whether General Weyler grants him permission to do so or not.

The "Journal" of Paris makes the authoritative statement, the dictum of the "Figaro" notwithlowing foreign disturbance, the average of rail-way stocks has scarcely varied. Earnings in raid with the Cross of the Legion of Honor this year. ROUND ABOUT EUROPE.

COMPANY'S DIRECTORS. WORK ON THE NICAFAGUA WATERWAY STOPPED,

SERVES IN GREECE-AFTERMATH OF THE MEYERLING TRAGEDY-RUSSIA'S FINANCIAL CRISIS -PARON DHANIS RE-

WHEREAS THAT ON THE PANAMA CANAL IS

IN FULL SWING-CALLING OUT THE RE-

PORTED KILLED. It will doubtless be news to many people to learn that wherear all work has been stopped for a considerable time past on the Nicaragua Canal, it is in full operation upon that of Panama. According to the report read at the annual general meof the new Panama Canal Company, just held in Paris, more than two thousand workmen were em ployed in pushing forward the excavation, on the Emperado and the Culebra, in the year 1856, while during the present year the force has been almost doubled. The report states that the more the directors advance in the accomplishment of the task they undertook the more their confidence increases in the final result.

Considerable excitement has been caused a Athens by the publication in the official "Gazette of a proclamation calling out the reserves and decreeing the immediate formation of a camp of exercise and instruction. The conviction is generally entertained that the King, who has recently returned from Vienna, would not have done this had he not acquired there the knowledge that grave events are imminent in the southeast of Europe.

A sentence of divorce has just been pronounced at Munich against the Empress of Austria's niece, Countess George Larisch, who played so prominent and so questionable a rôle in the scandal that culminated in the tragic death of Crown Prince Rudolph at Meyerling. The trial took place "in cam-era," but it is generally understood that the grounds upon which the Count based his demand for a dis-solution of the marriage rested on the behavior of the Countess in connection with the affair, which, it may be remembered, resulted in her banishment from Austria.

The agitation which has recently taken place in France regarding ex-Captain Dreyfus, condemned to imprisonment for life for betrayal of military State secrets, has had the effect of causing the Gov rament to institute additional measures for the

has just appeared in St. Petersburg and co some remarkable statistics. It appears that there re 870 prisons in Asiatic and European Russia, with the total number of 100,913 prisoners. The maintenance of this vast army of criminals, many of whom are merely political offenders, involves an enormous cost, for which adequate provision is not made by the State. The consequence is that in the majority of cases the inmates of the prison have to endure the worst conceivable sanitary conditions, and the official figures, which are invariably optimistic, show that no less than 39 per cent of the prison population suffer during the year from typhoid fever and kindred epidemics.

A statue of the late Count Ferdinand de Lesseps is about to be erected at Port Said, at a point overlooking the harber and the entrance to the Sucz Canal.

Russia is in the throes of a financial crisis of well nigh inconceivable magnitude. Some years ago the late Czar founded a land bank for the nobility, for the purpose of coming to the rescue of those Russian land-owners who, owing to the abolition of serfdom, were on the point of financial collapse. The bank was empowered to advance 60 per cent of the estimated value of the estates on ortgage. The idea was that the Russian nobl mortgage. The idea was that the Russian noble would devote the money to the improvement of his property. Instead of this, he squandered it and spent no portion thereof in any agricultural improvement, and the result is that to-day the bank, having advanced over \$1,000,00,000, finds itself with millions of acres on its hands, which it can neither cultivate nor sell at even 6) per cent of the estimated value. Either the bank will fail—in which case the entire financial credit of Russia will be shaken to its foundations—or else the State will have to come to its aid with a large amount. The whole affair constitutes an illustration of the futility of trying to bolster up the finances of an aristograpy that has outlived the sense of its responsibilities.

Nile Valley has been killed by the Mahdists to the north of Lade.

Mathilde Heintze, who, after poisoning her husand with arsenic at Sarnowko, Prussian Poland, fled to the United States, whence her extradition was obtained, has just been executed at Lissa, the decapitation, as usual, being effected by means of a big two-handed sword wielded by the execu-tioner, Reindel.

Bulgarta, which was on the point of being negotlated at the time when Prince Ferdinand made his humble submission to the Czar, and which has signature and ratification. Bulgaria has only obsignature and ratification. Bulgaria has only obtained this by means of sacrificing a number of demands which Austria had formerly consented to concede, but which she now refuses to grant. Inasmuch, however, as most other countries had declined to ratify their new treaties of commerce with Bulgaria until that with Austria had been arranged, there was practically no other course open to Prince Ferdinand. The treaty with Austria prevides for a general Bulgarian duty of 14 per cent ad valorem, while twenty-six specified articles are excepted. These include timber and agricultural machines, which pay 8 per cent; glassware, 12 per cent, and sugar, 15 per cent.

Ex-Cabinet Minister Baihaut, recently liberated at the conclusion of the term of imprisonment for of which he had while Minister of Public Works rendered himself guilty in connection with the de that he is still liable to the Government to the exthat he is still liable to the Government to the ex-tent of \$31,000 francs for fines, costs and legal expenses. The courts recently decided that the un-fortunate man, who is completely ruined, should either pay this sum at once or be imprisoned for another year. Naturally he chose the latter, and has now the consolation of knowing that every minute spent in the penitentiary is whing off, roughly speaking, about three cents of his debt to the State.

a sanctuary for the African elephant in the coast area of Somaliland. Within the reserve she servance of this rule will be an essential condition to shoot of this rule will be an essential condition to shoot other animals within the prescribed area. The reserve in question extends from the Sheik Pass on the east to the Abyssician frontier on the west, while the northern boundary is the edge of the Haud. Aliogether the reserve is about 200 miles long by 50 wide. At present elephant herds abound within the district.

In reading the dispatches and letters from Berin regarding the Tausch-Eulenburg-Lützow scanday, now in progress, and which has thus far

#### SUNDAY NIGHT CONCERTS. Sousa proved to be a dangerous rival to the popu-

lar Metropolitan concerts last night. He gave a concert (with the help of his band) at Carnegie Judge Stephen Neal, who wrote the Fourteenth Hall, and his music was heard by an audience that crowded the house and applauded everything so rapturously that the number of pieces on the programme was multiplied by two and perhaps a fraction. One of his marches, given on a recall, had to be played three times, and he never started one of the popular list but its first measures were greeted with an outburst of applause, which showed that the listeners were at once versed in The band played admirably, and Mr. Sousa, with given to understand that marches, with all the cornet and trombone players in solid phalanx in front of his forces and blowing blood out of their eyes, and negro double-shuffles with sandpaper accompaniment were what was most wanted. The concert sounded somewhat anomalous in Carnegie Hall, but there was no question of the pleasure which it gave to the thousands who heard it. At the Metropolitan Opera House Mr. Seldl provided music of a very different order, the "Tannhäuser" march, dream music from "Hänsel and Gretel," the third "Leonore" overture by Beethoven and the wedding music from "Lohengrin." The solo singers were Mile. Olitzka who sang her own numbers and some additions, to make up for the absence of Mmc. Litvinne (who was announced as ill), M. Lassalie and M. Plancon. Everything was well received, and Mile. Olitzka added to the enjoyment of the evening by singing "Ben Bolt." The boy Hubermann played Mendelssohn's violin concerte and Sara-ante's fantasia on themes from "Carmen."

## A HOLIDAY MASQUE.

REPORT OF THE NEW PANAMA CANAL IN AN ENGLISH COURT, WITH A LETTER WRITER AS HIS OWN LAWYER AND MR. LABOUCHERE IN THE BOX.

London, December 18 The theatres formerly supplied the quips and cranks of the holiday season; but a Christmas pantomime is now little else than a variety show with all the ordinary attractions of the concert-hall. The best masques of hollday humor are witnessed in the court of justice over which Mr. Justice Hawkins presides. The Russell libel suit, until it was brought to a tragic close oy the death of Kast, was a judicial comedy enlivened by humorous bouts among counsel and grim and caustic sallies from the bench. The prospect of holiday sport in the courts on the eve of Christmas week would have been poor indeed if Broks vs, Labouchere had not been improvised as an interlude.

This case was tried before Mr. Justice Haw. kins and a special jury in the Queen's Bench Division. It drew full houses for several reasons. The presiding Justice had recently given a fine display of ready wit in the conduct of a more serious case, and it was considered probable that he might improve the occasion by being as funny as he could. Mr. Brooks was anounced in the bill of the play as his own lawyer, and this excited the humorous suspicion that he would be likely to justify the old saw by having a fool for his client. Sir Frank Lockwood, one of the brightest wits of the English bar, was to conduct the defence and crossexamine the ministerial letter-writer, who had succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of Mr. Arthur Balfour and in obtaining a grant of (200 from the Exchequer, at the expense of the Royal Bounty Fund reserved for meritorious authors in distress. The defendant, moreover, was Mr. Labouchere, one of the most trenchant writers and livelies: speakers in England. Naturally the courtroom was densely crowded at every session. Mr. Justice Hawkins, warned possibly by the untimely end of Kast that judicial humor might be attended with fatal consequences, was grave and reticent; but otherwise public anticipations of fun at the fair were abundantly fulfilled.

The alleged libel in "Truth," upon which the action was based, had described the grant of (200 as "probably the first instance on record of the Treasury having been victimized by the begging letter-writer," and had referred to Mr. Brooks as "the master of all the tricks of the trade." The plaintiff, in opening the case, presented this issue to the jury: "Was he the fraudulent impostor the defendant represented him to be, or was he what he professed to bea minister of the Gospel and an author who had done good and honorable work?" Having denounced the defendant as a purveyor of gossip and scandal, an adept at slandering, backbiting and evil-speaking, "Inquisitor and censorgeneral of everything and everybody in English society" and the employer of an army of spies scattered over the country, he produced from typewritten noves his autobiography as a minister among Methodists and Independents, with an account of his literary achievements as an author and political pamphleteer. He referred in detail to his financial embarrassments and Justified his industry in soliciting aid from influential people by the example of Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Cervantes, Crabbe, Erasmus, Goldsmith and scores of other literary men in writing begging letters. It was a long exhortation occupying the main part of two sessions of the Court, and it was heard with impatience by bench and jury. The barristers present listened to it with cyrical amusement. It offered a convincing proof that fluent talkers outside the profession are not justified in taking their own cases into court and arguing them in person.

## THE EXPOSURE OF CANT.

Better entertainment was offered when Sir Frank Lockwood took the plaintiff in hand for cross-examination, and revealed the hypocrisy It is reported at Brussels that Baron Dhanis, in of his letters and the hollowness of his case. mmand of the Congo Free State troops in the One letter after another was produced and the canting appeals for assistance were contrasted with the style in which he was living and with the condition of his bank account. He confessed that he had written a thousand or more letters of this kind, and that he had obtained addresses from "Debrett," "Kelly's Official List" and various blue-books. Letters to the Duke of Fife, to the governor of the Bank of England, other eminent men were read, in which mouth, and these were traversed by his own admissions that he had profited heavily by private charity, and was sojourning at Mells Lodge in comfort with a gardener, two horses, a pony carriage and a phaeton. The exposure was merciless and complete. Sir Frank Lockwood's voice rang alternately with indignation and contempt, and the unabashed plaintiff's replies were received with shricks of laughter from the audience. Before the cross-examination ended the jury held a consultation in whispers and communicated with the bench. Mr. Justice Hawkins at once announced that the jury did not wish to consider the case any longer. Sir Frank Lockwood, with a smile, took his seat, convinced that he had won the case and would be spared the labor of addressing the jury.

Mr. Brooks, with colorless face and an air of desperation, persisted in continuing his case, and after wasting fifteen minutes in examining an unimportant witness, a Scotch farmer, boldly summoned Mr. Labouchere to the stand. The audience was at once convulsed with laughter, and Mr. Labouchere himself went into the box with a face on a broad grin. Then followed as grotesque a scene as has ever been witnessed in an English court. It was like a fencing bout between an accomplished swordsman like Sir Charles Dilke and an awkward bumpkin who had never before held steel in hand. Every answer fairly crackled with dryness and cynical

The answer to the first question: "When did

you first become acquainted with me?" was "I don't think I ever did," and the audience roared with delight. "In your opinion I am an impostor?" continued the questioner further on. "I formed that conclusion," said the witness with a leer. "Can you produce any proof of my cadging the Treasury." "I base my opinion on the fact that you got the money." "You ignored my literary work in your articles and intimated that I only wrote begging letters?" "I am quite unqualified to form any opinion upon their literary merits." "You take a great deal of interest in other people's business. Have you nothing in your own life?" "I have a great deal in my own case." Every answer excited merriment, and the unhappy plaintiff became the butt of the courtroom. When Mr. Labouchere finally admitted that he had invested £40,000 in legal eests in exposing impostors and Sir Frank Lockwood bestowed upon him in the name of the profession the affectionate benediction "Go on and prosper!" the learned Justice himself laughed aloud and there was uproar throughout the court.

After this masque of jollity and buffoonery the plaintiff struggled to call other witnesses and finally made a feeble address to the jury. Sir Frank Lockwood did not deign to reply, and Mr. Justice Hawkins summed up the case in & few sentences. The jury promptly found a verdict for Mr. Labouchere, and the case was literally laughed out of court. Nor does the ridicule end there. Mr Balfour is exposed to jeers and reproaches for having endowed with an apprepriation of (200 from the Royal Bounty a begging letter-writer, who had been importuning dukes, bank directors and distinguished people for assistance, and writing political pamphlets for both parties. One journal sharply calls upon the First Lord of the Treasury to refund the money out of his own pocket This is perhaps an unfair advantage to take of an amiable but credulous statesman like Mr. Balfour, but Brooks vs. Labouchere, in any event, will serve as a warning to future governments